

Tasmanian Forestry Workers

Workers Assistance Newsletter

This newsletter is for those involved in Tasmania's forestry industry who have been affected by the industry restructure.



Seasons Greetings

With the end of year just around the corner, this will be the final newsletter for 2013.

Workers Assistance Coordinators will be available to assist you with any enquiries you may have leading up to the end of year break.

Please note, the ForestWorks office will be closed from the 23 December 2013 and Coordinators will be available at different times during the holiday break. See below for details.

End of year contact info

ForestWorks TAS office

Available from 6 January 2014
(03) 6331 6077

Eva Down ForestWorks Skills & Employment Manager

Available from the 13 January 2014
(03) 6331 5438

Max Diamond National Coordinator

Available from the 1 February 2014
(03) 6331 6077

Rick Birch Coordinator

Available from 2 January until 13 January 2014
0448 654 267 (handling state-wide enquires)

Mark Blackwell Coordinator

Available from 13 January until 10 February 2014
0448 654 546 (handling state-wide enquires)

Rodney O'Halloran Coordinator

Available from the 1 February 2014
0448 654 384

What are Workers Assistance Coordinators?

They assist those that have worked as a part of the Tasmanian forestry industry by:

- connecting forestry workers and their families to all Commonwealth Government service including registering with a Job Services Australia (JSA) and Centrelink
- assisting with putting together resumes
- discussing job roles and opportunities
- meeting with prospective employers to find employment opportunities for you
- researching and assisting in organising further training
- assisting with job applications and applying for jobs
- helping with job interview preparation
- helping with transport to and from interviews
- exploring other assistance and funding opportunities that maybe available
- connecting workers to Rural Alive and Well (RAW)
- connecting forestry workers with other available services

For more info visit
www.forestworks.com.au/workersassistance



Talk to a mate

Rural Alive and Well Inc (RAW) creates resilience and capacity for individuals, families and the community to react to challenging life experiences, with particular emphasis on mental health and wellbeing.

Remember, it always helps to talk to a mate.

RAW is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation, funded to provide counselling and assistance to individuals, families and communities that have been affected by the Tasmanian forestry industry restructure. This service has statewide coverage and is strictly confidential. Its outreach workers are available 24/7 and can meet you at home or any location that you are most comfortable with.

RAW also provides assistance to individuals at risk of mental health problems, acute distress and suicide. It also develops and implements strategies in communities to reduce stigma associated with mental health issues for individuals and families seeking help.

For more information, you can contact the RAW office on (03) 6259 3014, email admin@rawtas.com.au or visit their website www.rawtas.com.au

If you would like to meet with a RAW outreach worker, our Workers Assistance Coordinators can arrange it for you.

Or, you are welcome to contact any of the RAW outreach workers yourself:

Wayne Turale: 0428 145 319
Outreach Manager, Central Highlands

Garry Sharp: 0400 131 256
Outreach Worker, Glamorgan Spring Bay

Darren Thurlow: 0428 333 517
Outreach Worker, Southern Midlands

Tony O'Malley: 0408 478 993
Outreach Worker, Tasman Peninsula

Martin Howell: 0417 426 730
Outreach Worker South

Trevor Chalk: 0427 418 345
Outreach Worker, North/North West

Nicole Grose: 0418 473 293
Outreach Worker, North/North East

Take the time to talk to a mate and remember all conversations are strictly confidential.

New FLEX program

Another service that can now be accessed is FLEX, Financial Literacy Exchange program funded by the State Government. ForestWorks is now able to provide further support for retrenched workers, families and small businesses under this program.

ForestWorks has engaged Heather Saunders from TasTAFE to help develop and deliver information in small informal group settings.

Topics covered may include:

- simple budgeting
- payment options including Bpay and direct debit for fix expenses – phone, rates, water, power and insurance bills
- no fee bank accounts
- accessing information on free financial counselling

For more information please contact your Workers Assistance Coordinator or contact the ForestWorks office directly.

There have been some great outcomes for people throughout the year, with new jobs and training. People have been working towards getting a job through their current skills and their new skills, obtained through various training organisations and with support from the Workers Assistance Coordinators. We would like to share some recent stories:

Happy to relocate

Dean Chilcott had worked at Gunns' Massey Greene site for 13 years before being retrenched. Then, after just starting work at Caterpillar in Burnie, he was retrenched again.

Workers Assistance Coordinator, Rodney O'Halloran, made contact with Dean and explained the service. They discussed how Dean may need to up-skill and find new employment in areas better suited to him.

Dean had previous experience in warehousing while at Caterpillar and originally wanted to stay in this field, as well as in the Burnie area with his family. But, he was willing to give anything a go.

While working on his resume with Rodney, they identified other skills he'd obtained such as driving tractors and general farming duties. This helped to broaden his scope and ability to find positions in the upcoming harvesting season.

After talking with a local contractor on Dean's behalf, Rodney was informed that a farm at Marrawah was looking to fill a farm hand position. Rodney contacted the farmer and got the details of the position and relayed his contact number to Dean.

Dean had a meeting at Marrawah, about 140km from where he was living at Yolla, with the farmer and was offered the position. He was also offered a work vehicle and house close to the local school. Dean and his young family were happy to relocate and take on the new challenge, and career.

Rodney has followed up several times to see how everything is going. Dean and his family are very happy, saying this would not have been possible without the ForestWorks Workers Assistance Service.

Dean and his employer are now in the process of applying for training funding, to help Dean gain additional skills, such as chainsaw and firearms licences, fencing, ATV training through AGRITAS (Agricultural College in Smithton).



Out of tragedy comes opportunity

Ty Little had been employed for 12 years at Kelly's Timber Sawmill at Dunalley. As a local who grew up in the area, not having to travel too far to work was an added bonus. Ty had undertaken many tasks and roles at the sawmill, and enjoyed the work and the people he worked with.

Unfortunately on Friday 4 January, tragedy occurred when Kelly's Timber Sawmill was burnt to the ground, along with 200 other structures, leaving its owners with no option but to retrench the employees.

Ty secured some short-term employment with Hazell Brothers during the time it took to clean up the properties affected by the bushfires. Then, when the Hazell Brothers work came to an end, Ty registered with ForestWorks and a JSA. Workers Assistance Coordinator, Rick Birch, began to seek out employment opportunities that would suit him.

Ty was fortunate enough to be offered employment on a local oyster lease at Dunalley. Although he did enjoy the work, he wanted something a bit different. Rick had been talking with local building company owned by Brett and Annette Perry, who were helping with the rebuilding in the Dunalley community. Brett had discussed with Rick that he was keen to secure Ty as an adult apprentice builder as he knew of his excellent skills and work ethic.

Rick was also able to help connect Ty and Brett to an Australian Apprenticeship Centre to discuss all options and assistance available for apprentices and employers. Ty's JSA also helped with some of the tools he needed for his new career.

Ty has now officially signed up as an apprentice builder with Brett and Annette and is enjoying his new career pathway with helping rebuild new homes in the Dunalley and surrounding area.

Skills Audits: Turning skills you already have into formal qualifications

A Skills Audit can provide you with a formal recognition of the skills that you have been using in your work for many years. Organising a Skills Audit is easy and can be a huge boost to your working life.

What is a Skills Audit?

A Skills Audit looks at your complete work history and the skills and training that you have received on the job. If possible, it matches these skills and training with formal, widely recognised qualifications.

How can a Skills Audit help me?

By receiving formal recognition for what you have achieved in the workplace, you will be able to demonstrate to potential new employers that you are competent against national standards and that you are prepared to learn.

How do I arrange a Skills Audit?

To arrange a Skills Audit or for more information, talk with your Workers Assistance Coordinator.

Who does your Skills Audit?

Skills Audits are carried out by a trainer and assessor from a registered training organisation in your area.

Where are Skills Audit meetings conducted?

A Skills Audit can be held at any location that suits you. It can even be done at your own home.

What do I need to bring to a Skills Audit?

Bring along copies of any certificates, qualifications, resumes, job descriptions or licences that you already have.

What qualifications can I receive following a Skills Audit?

Depending on what evidence (certificates, etc.) that you are able to provide you could achieve a Statement of Attainment; a Certificate I, II, III, or IV; or even a Diploma.

How much does it cost to participate in a Skills Audit?

The costs involved in a Skills Audit is covered by the Workers Assistance Service.

To arrange a Skills Audit or for more information, contact your Workers Assistance Coordinator or contact Rick Birch on 0448654267

